

REPORT FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

Wednesday 26 April (2017) Meeting

Please find below, information on the key focus of our April meeting:

- School Fees
- Asbestos Works
- Fete Funds – Amphitheatre
- Child Safety
- Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)
- Welfare Clubs

Our second meeting of the year and it's great to see the School Council already starting to tackle some challenges with fresh ideas and bring focus to our target areas for 2017. Here's a few snippets from our last meeting.

School Fees

- The school's financial health is a key responsibility of the School Council and the parent contributions are critical to being able to offer the high quality education that BNPS continues to deliver. Unfortunately, we still have a number of essential learning subject fees outstanding. This contribution supports the delivery of the standard curriculum, so as we head towards the half year, it is very concerning that we have been unable to collect these fees thus far as it will impact on the delivery of our children's education.
- This year we have the added challenge of having to absorb the impact of Casual Replacement Teachers rates increasing by 18% due to recently signed EBA. This is not covered by the government's contribution to our school budget.
- If you haven't already paid, or are unsure whether you have, please contact the Office to arrange payment. As always, the Office are there to assist if you are having difficulties.

Asbestos Works

- A big shout out to the whole school community for your support and patience as we work with the Department on resolving the asbestos issue. As you will have noticed, there has been ongoing monitoring throughout the school, and the Department has responded appropriately to remediating the problem. Sherril and team have done a fantastic job liaising with the Department to get the work done and hopefully you have seen the various Compass updates to keep abreast of developments. The areas where work has been undertaken are starting to emerge from behind the fences and I'm sure you will agree, has provided a lovely facelift to the school. Keep tuned to Compass for regular updates. Again, thank you to the staff for being so adaptable when it comes to operating with so many areas having been fenced off in the last little while.

Fete Funds – Amphitheatre

- With so much of the school grounds behind fences, we felt it prudent to delay the construction of the amphitheatre until such time as more play areas became accessible again. The good news is that this delay has allowed us to complete the design and seek costings for the build effort. Thanks to the support of our wonderful school community, we were able to pull together enough prizes to run a raffle to raise funds for the installation of shade sails to make the project complete.
- If anyone has contacts to assist with concreting or shade sails, we would love to hear from you.

Child Safety

- New Child Safety regulations came into effect on 1 August 2016. Known as Ministerial Order no. 870, these regulations set out specific actions that all registered schools are required to undertake in order to meet the Child Safe Standards. As part of this, it places accountability for managing the risk of child abuse with the school governing authorities - every school needs to meet the regulation requirements in order to remain registered.
- The good news is that BNPS was well placed to meet the minimum standard given the continuous improvements and reviews being conducted with child safety always being top of mind for all staff. Not only do we have the necessary policies in place (which are reviewed regularly for appropriateness and the adherence), but the Leadership Team take child safety into account in all decisions and actions. An example of this is the recent playground review. Given that parts of the school are coming out from behind the fences and playground, a review was conducted to ensure safe use of the playgrounds and that yard duty teachers have adequate line of sight of all areas. This has meant that we have had to make parts of the school out-of-bounds. We hope that you can support us by explaining this to your children. We are in the process of reviewing options to either relocate the cubby houses to an accessible area or install additional cubby houses on the McDonald Street side of the school as we know the children enjoyed these.
- For more details of the changes, the education department has provided <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>
- For more information on BNPS's related policies, please refer to <http://www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/policies.html>
- For any other information, please contact the Office.

Outside school hours care (OSHC)

- OSHC is a very popular service provided by the School Council. If you use this service and are willing to work with the team to continuously improve the offering, please volunteer your time to join the School Council OSHC Sub-committee - we'd love your support. Generally speaking, the commitment would be to attend a monthly meeting with Kelly (OSHC Co-ordinator) and team and provide support for any special projects or regular compliance reviews.
- Please contact Kelly via OSHC or the Office, to express your interest or find out more.

Welfare Clubs

- With the changes in the community demographics and family lifestyles, it is prudent that we always review and consider the appropriateness of our Welfare Clubs. At the moment we have two Welfare Clubs – Parents' Club and Fathers' Activity Club. The School Council will engage a focused team of parents to look into how best to structure the Welfare Clubs and the School Sub-committees, in service of the school and the school community.

As always, please free to contact me via the school email address: beaumaris.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kind regards

Carolynn Smith

School Council President